

October 8, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding 02-306

Dear Commissioners:

For more than ten years I have had the privilege of serving the residents of Los Angeles as the Councilmember of the Eighth District. I have never taken the charge of public service lightly and have worked diligently to balance the interests of the many constituencies that I represent.

There are some issues, however, that are clearly beneficial for a majority of my constituents and SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance market is one of those issues. With their entry, competition within the market will be enhanced and this will ultimately be to the advantage of California's consumers and businesses.

I believe that SBC Pacific Bell, and its union-represented workers, should be afforded the opportunity to compete in a new market, just as Californians deserve the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of more comprehensive competition in the provision of telecommunications services. I urge you to approve SBC Pacific Bell's application for entry into the long distance market.

With hope,

Mark Ridley-Thomas
President Pro Tempore
Councilmember, Eighth District